

# The Hour

"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"

NUMBER 14

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## NAZI AGENT "VOLBY" SOUGHT BY FBI IS DR. OTTO H. F. VOLLEBEHR

No Longer in This Country -- Known for the \$1,500,000 Sale to Library of Congress Before Hitler Came to Power -- Since 1931 Spent Large Amounts on Nazi Propaganda in the United States -- Fled to Germany from Debts, Court Action, and FBI

We learn that "Volby," sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the latest Nazi spy case (see The Hour for September 23), is Dr. Otto Heinrich Friedrich Vollbehr, and that he has succeeded in fleeing to Germany.

He is the Dr. Vollbehr who in the past has been successful in securing cooperation from some of the U. S. government agencies in putting over big business deals, which, however, had no apparent connection with his activities in behalf of the Nazi government. He is the Dr. Vollbehr who in 1930 sold the Gutenberg Bible and other rare items to the Library of Congress for \$1,500,000. The Bible is on exhibit in the Rare Book Room of the Library in Washington. The entire collection was known as the Vollbehr Collection.

### Vollbehr's Memorandum

From October 20, 1931 to April 1936, Vollbehr published eleven issues of an anti-democratic, pro-Nazi Memorandum. He sent these to a special list, carefully prepared, of some 1800 leading American politicians, business men, and educators. Certain issues, with a more emphatic message proclaiming the wonders of the Third Reich, he sent to as many as 3500 people. The first six issues, up to November 1934, he mailed out of Hay-Adams House, Washington, D. C.; the last five issues, from his office at 2424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

In November 1934, Congressman Dickstein of the House committee investigating Nazi propaganda examined Vollbehr in executive session, and in the course of testimony Vollbehr promised: a) that he would remain in this country pending further investigation, and b) that he would suspend the publication of his Memorandum. However, steamship records show that he left this country on the Bremen on December 16,

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1934, and that at the time he purchased his ticket he requested the Hamburg-American Line that no publicity be given to the fact that he was sailing for Germany. He returned some time later, and on January 15, 1935, despite his promise, resumed the Memorandum. He fled to Germany for the second, and evidently last, time in the spring of 1939.

In spreading Nazi propaganda in this country Vollbehr had the assistance of such native fascists as Colonel Edwin Emerson and T. St. John Gaffney. At one time he was associated with Ingram Hughes of Los Angeles, who was the head of the American Nationalist Party, which was connected with the Friends of New Germany (predecessor of the German-American Bund) on the West Coast. In the Middle West, Winrod's Revealer used Vollbehr's writings. In the East, Vollbehr was friendly with Dr. Ignatz T. Griebl who headed the Nazi spy ring in the United States until last year when Griebl fled to Germany. We also learn that Vollbehr handled part of the transaction which resulted in the purchase of Camp Nordland in Andover, New Jersey, and afterwards was a frequent visitor at the Nazi camp. According to a statement made by Vollbehr some time ago, he is an American citizen. According to another of his statements, he has only the first papers, that is, he has filed his declaration of intention to become a U. S. Citizen.

## His Deals

Vollbehr, now in his sixties, is by birth a member of Germany's upper middle class. Some ten years ago he was in a railroad accident in the Reich and received a sizable sum of money for damages. It was with this money, as well as other funds available to him, that he purchased (or took options on) in Germany and other European countries some 3,000 incunabula, including a rare copy of the Gutenberg Bible, which alone was valued at \$300,000. Vollbehr tried to sell the entire collection for \$3,000,000, but finally sold it to the Library of Congress for half the amount, saying: "I am making a gift of \$1,500,000 to the people of America." Opinion is held in some circles that even half the amount was unnecessarily high.

By the spring of 1938 Dr. Vollbehr was trying to sell to various U. S. libraries another group of 1036 incunabula, his asking price being \$600,000. However, because of the various shady and unbusiness-like methods, he was by then blacklisted by practically all the well-known libraries in America. Meeting with little success on the new proposition, he began to lower the price, but it soon developed that he could not sell the new group because a number of people in New York, Cincinnati and San Francisco had outstanding liens on the collection, having advanced considerable amounts of money to Vollbehr.

## High Living and Many Troubles

A group of Vollbehr's creditors brought a suit against him. He was in the habit of spending fabulous sums on what he considered his ordinary living needs, and left a cloud of debts behind him, among them

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a heavy unpaid bill at one of New York's best hotels. He is known to have an exceedingly polished way with women, and, when pressed for ready cash, has always been able to obtain large sums by a well-developed romantic sales-talk. Shortly before his last sailing for Germany he gave a banquet which was so sumptuous that the persons present now tell one another they would have a hard time forgetting the magnificent event.

Dr. Vollbehr sailed for the Reich on April 26, 1939, on the Europa, and his reason for departure was "the illness of his wife in Munich." One extremely well-informed source tells The Hour that Vollbehr was called home by the Nazis because of the impending war, and of the plans Hitler's government had for using his exceptional personality in preparation for the war. At the time he sailed he said that he intended to come back and acquire final papers of U. S. citizenship. Actually, to date, he has not returned, and it is plain to those who knew him that he will not come back "unless the United States goes Nazi." For, at the time he left, he knew that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was on his trail.

(In the next issue The Hour will tell of the repercussions of the Vollbehr Case upon a certain situation in the Library of Congress.)

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#### COLIN ROSS VIEWS PRES. ROOSEVELT AS OBSTACLE TO NAZI PLANS

A clue to the Nazi program for the United States in the event of war is given in an article sent from America and published on August 27 in the Nazi newspaper, Ostdeutsche Morgenpost, of Beuthen, Germany. The article, entitled "Franklin Roosevelt Fights for Power," was written by Colin Ross, the well-known Nazi propagandist who, in accordance with the U. S. Act of June 8, 1938 ("Registration of Agents of Foreign Principals"), is registered by the State Department as a foreign agent.

In his article Colin Ross weighs the chances and possible methods of getting President Roosevelt out of the White House and asks, "How long can this man still be in a position to use his pernicious influence in America as well as in Europe against Germany and the German folk?" Writing on the very eve of Hitler's invasion into Poland, Ross exclaims: "It is a fact that Franklin Roosevelt drives further and further toward war!"

Colin Ross is a frequent speaker before organizations allied with the Nazi German-American Bund, and a contributor to the Bund's newspaper, Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter. His book Unser Amerika (Our America), published in 1937, is the "definitive" Nazi work on the United States. Therein the author lists the founding of Kuhn's Bund in 1936 among "the most important events from 1492 to 1937."

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## DEMORALIZATION OF FOREIGN ARMIES IS GOEBBELS' AIM

A Branch of This "Service" Functions Also in U. S.

Demoralization of the enemy's army from within is an important war-function of the Nazi ministry of propaganda, according to the information supplied to The Hour by a person who has worked as an archivist in the Berlin headquarters of Dr. Goebbels. The organization of the special section dealing with such demoralization dates back to the invasion of Ethiopia by Hitler's ally, Il Duce. The section, functioning in the closest connection possible with the Reich war ministry, is under the leadership of Major von Wrochem. Important personages in the work are Ursula Rauschenbach, the Major's secretary, and Herr Doeppelin, the liaison officer between the army and Dr. Goebbels.

An extensive staff of research workers, writers and lecturers follows the foreign press for the so-called anti-German war propaganda and counteracts it as "lies of the Jewish-Democratic press." The main points which this staff has to put across are: 1. Prove to foreign soldiers that in a war against the Reich every foreign power will be a loser because of the Reich's superiority in armaments, 2. Repeat endlessly that the Nazi Reich and its leaders really love peace, 3. Carry on propaganda against blockade and other restrictions of trade with the Nazi Reich, 4. Carry on pacifist propaganda among the youth of all non-Axis countries, creating a mood against the horrors of war, especially of a war against Germany who is: a) so strong anyway, and b) is only claiming her just, centuries-old rights. In the eyes of the Nazis, when successful this propaganda has a twofold effect: 1. It undermines a foreign army, 2. Via the soldiers, it carries the germs of propaganda into their families, thus undermining the spirit of the country.

In the United States this propaganda is carried on through the foreign section of the Nazi party, through the "Kulturattachés," to be found on the staff of every German consulate-general, who actually are employees of Dr. Goebbels. The German-American Bund assists in this work by supplying names of people of German origin and involving them in this propaganda.

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## A TRAGEDY BEHIND THE FRONT LINES

Our Berlin informant relays to us the following brief tale of a tragedy behind the front lines: Herr E. was a shipping agent in the town of Waldenburg and the proud owner of two trucks. One truck was new and the other had just been completely overhauled, the combined expense putting a considerable strain on the man's slender finances. On recent morning the military command summoned him with both trucks for war-transport duty. Herr E. was sixty years old, and this last blow set his nerves to the fatal point: two days later he committed suicide.

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## DEMAND RECALL OF WAUKESHA, WIS., MAYOR FOR NAZI SPEECH

A public meeting was called on Monday, September 26, at the Odd Fellows' Hall in Waukesha, Wisconsin, to start recall action against Mayor Henry Snyder for his fascist activities. The main charge against the Mayor is that he delivered a rabid pro-Hitler, anti-Semitic speech during a recent festival of the Germania Singing Society in the local Arcadian Park. "It wouldn't be a bad idea," he is charged with saying, "to have Hitler here for a while. I wish we could borrow Hitler for six months." The news of the Mayor's desire for Hitler's rule in America traveled to other Wisconsin points, including Madison, everywhere arousing much indignation.

At a stormy meeting on Friday, September 6, Waukesha's Trades and Labor Council decided to take action on the Mayor's speech. A delegation of the Council and of a citizens' committee appeared before the city council asking to investigate the Mayor's activities and to begin recall proceedings. A motion in this sense was introduced, but, after a prolonged debate, the city council tabled it.

The Trades and Labor Council would not give up the fight, however. It voted full cooperation with the citizens' committee and appropriated funds for a recall petition. Such a petition, according to statutes, must bear signatures of one-third of voters participating in the latest mayoralty election; it is to go through the judiciary apparatus, and, if approved by the latter, results in a special election. To this movement the Mayor has so far replied by publicly insulting its leaders and by refusing to apologize. He does not see how his desire for Hitler's rule in the United States could justify "the nerve of this bunch to question my Americanism."

Mayor Henry Snyder is sixty years old, of German descent, a former Presbyterian minister, but now in the grocery business. His accusers point to indications of his cordial relations with the Nazi Bund and the Coughlinites.

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## JOHN CECIL WIDENS HIS FASCIST ACTIVITIES

A New York organization by the high-sounding name of the National Affairs Conference Board has recently begun the publication of "The Conference Report." The Hour learns that John Cecil, notorious alien-baiter and anti-Semite, is chairman of this new fascist-propaganda group. He is also president of the American Immigration Conference Board, which sponsored almost all of the anti-alien bills introduced during the last session of U. S. Congress. For over a year Cecil has been a speaker at Coughlinite, pro-Nazi and other "super-patriotic" rallies. He starts his typical speech by demanding "Jobs for Americans First," then launches into a tirade against racial minorities. He is on friendly terms with Senator Reynolds, of North Carolina, leader of the reactionary "Vindicators." Cecil boasts of having invited Fritz Kuhn and other Bundites to attend a meeting in the Hotel Astor in New York which Reynolds addressed last May.

